Import of pulses by NAFED

103. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation) to import pulses to tide over the shortage due to drought;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any quantity of pulses has since been imported by NAFED; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) the manner in which the imported pulses are to be disposed of to the general public; and

(e) in case no import of pulses has so far been made by NAFED, when the said import is likely to be made by NAFED?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) NAFED has been advised to import about one lakh MTs of pulses in association with some of the State Cooperative Marketing Federations as a measure to meet the shortfall in availability of pulses arising out of the drought in the country.

(c) to (e) NAFED has finalised contracts for import of around 20,000 MTs of pulses consisting of Urad Whole, Lentils and Dunpeas. The first consignment of 2,000 MTs of pulses is expected to arrive by mid November, 1987.

The pulses, thus, imported would be distributed through cooperatives, Public Distribution System and State agencies. The State Civil Supplies Corporations, State Cooperative Marketing Federations and State Consumers' Cooperative Federations have been requested by NAFED to indicate their requirements to facilitate their expeditious distribution after arrival.

104. [*Transferred to the 10th November* 1987].

Compensation to farmers

105. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to severe drought this year in various parts of the country, crops of farmers have been destroyed;

(b) if so, what is the amount of compensation towards crop insurance given to farmers in various States, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have issued any guidelines for speedy payment of the crop insurance claims and, if so what are these guidelines; and

(d) in case there is any delay in the settlement to crop insurance claims, whether Government have taken or propose to take measures to mitigate the sufferings of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir Due to severe drought condition in various parts of the country, kharif 1987 crops of the farmers in some of the States that have implemented the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS), have been destroyed or damaged.

(b) The State-wise amount of indemnity claims for kharif 1987 season payable to the farmers covered under the CCIS in various States will be worked out by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) after receipt of the yield data from the concerned State Governments, the last date for which is 31.1.1988.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have issued a circular to all implementing States|UTs directing them to submit yield data complete in all respects for kharif seasons by the end of the month of January of the following year, for speedy settlement of crop insurance claims. Besides, in case there is any delay in settlement of these claims the short-term loans

of the farmers affected by various natural calamities are converted into medium term loans by the credit/financial institutions, without insisting on prior settlement of crop insurance claims. This conversion restores the credit eligibility of the affected farmers.

Flood relief to West Bengal

106 SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of financial assistance sought by the Government of West Bengal for flood relief measures;

(b) what is the amount sanctioned by the Union Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government has been asked to send audited accounts of money already spent on relief and rehabilitation work in the flood affected districts;

(d) if so, what is the State Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) whether other State Governments have also been asked to send audited accounts of the expenses incurred on flood and drought relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Rs. 225.90 crores.

(b) Rs. 67.78 crores including Rs. 0.06 crore for increasing vegetable production.

(c) to (e) All State Governments are required to furnish audicted accounts of expenditure incurred on the relief against Central assistance given to them; these accounts are due after 18 months of the close of the year in which the expenditure is incurred. In terms of orders sanctioning Central assistance, certified figures of expenditure as booked by the Accountant General are required by 15th March, 1988 to enable the Ministry of Finance to determine the Central assistance admissible on the basis of expenditure. These conditions apply to all States equally. Certified figures of expenditure are not, therefore, due from Government of West Bengal.

Shortfall in Kharif Production

107. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortfall in the production of Kharif food-grains output this year is estimated to be lower by about 20 million tonnes than the target, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) A foodgrains production target of 90.5 million tonnes was fixed for the kharif season of 1987-88. However, large parts of the country experienced drought conditions and some States in the East suffered from floods, adversely affecting the kharif foodgrains production. Final estimates of the crop size have not yet fallen due from the States. As such, it is too early to quantify the shortfall in the production of kharif foodgrains from the envisaged target.

Advertisement about the foreign brand consumer durables

108. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn into various advertisements appearing in Media about the